

Requested Safety Measures During Trench Construction at West Lake Landfill

West Lake/Bridgeton Landfill Community Advisory Group

Resolution 2013-1

Read and approved October, 21, 2013

WHEREAS within a five mile radius of West Lake Landfill are heavily populated areas including: housing, malls, shops, hospitals, retirement homes, factories, 15 schools, daycare centers, major thoroughfares, and a major waterway that could suffer almost immediate exposure from any airborne contaminants released by trench construction at the West Lake Landfill. If a situation develops that would cause exposure to hazardous materials those living or working in the immediate vicinity will have virtually no notice of danger until after they have been exposed. The potential health, safety, and economic impacts of an unintended large-scale release of hazardous materials could result in severe and devastating impacts to those exposed.

WHEREAS the West Lake Landfill is known to contain: Uranium-238, Radium-226, Radium-223, Lead-211, Lead-212, Potassium-40, Thorium from dumping of nuclear weapons wastes; insecticides and herbicides from Chevron Corp; and also contains waste ink, esters, halogenated intermediates, oils, heavy metals, pigments, alcohols, wastewater sludges, oily sludges, insecticides, aromatics, asbestos, lead, diesel fuel, fly ash, incinerator ash, gasoline soaked soil and herbicides from other sources. The West Lake Landfill was a largely unregulated dumpsite during the years of its open operation and it is believed that other hazardous waste materials are present but undocumented within the landfill. The substances contained in the West Lake Landfill have migrated and mixed together over years of changes to the landfill and the exact location of hazardous waste materials is as yet undetermined. The hazardous materials known and unknown contained within the West Lake Landfill could cause serious threat to the health of residents and workers in the area.

WHEREAS it is believed that the construction of the trench in West Lake Landfill is a necessary short term solution to avoid an existing subsurface smoldering event from interacting with radioactive wastes stored in the landfill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Lake/Bridgeton Landfill Community Advisory Group does hereby request of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that certain specific measures and practices be used during the trench construction at the West Lake Landfill; those measures and practices should include but are not limited to: An EPA representative on site during the trench construction with the authority to: establish new testing and monitoring when needed, coordinate with State, County, and Local Governmental and Emergency authorities, and halt operations if needed; that EPA and MDNR host a public meeting sharing the details of the construction allowing questions from the community; installation of constant air monitoring stations which monitor Alpha, Beta, and Gamma particles and VOCs surrounding the West Lake Landfill and within residential areas within 1 and 1 half miles surrounding the West Lake Landfill; the temporary relocation for the duration of the trench construction of residents and pets in a 1 and 1 half mile radius surrounding the West Lake Landfill and that those properties have protection against theft and vandals; that in the event of off-site contamination compensation is given to property owners and businesses for losses; that no brush-hog or other heavy dust generating equipment be used in the proposed construction area until such time as that area has been tested and it be determined that no radioactive or other hazardous materials will become airborne if such equipment is used; that a temporary shelter be used to cover the trench and the equipment decontamination area to minimize the possibility of known or unknown contaminants from becoming airborne; that all workers wear dosimeters on their person while at the job-site checked at mid shift and end of shift so exposures may be more quickly detected; that only HAZMAT trained and certified contractors and subcontractors using skilled labor perform construction related to the project; that emergency plans including evacuation be established with State, County, and Local authorities for the 5 mile surrounding area of the West Lake Landfill and shared among all those entities, first responders, and hospitals; and at all times best practices to be used in planning and execution of the trench construction project.

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